

Rare Plants of Louisiana



Cirsium lecontei – Le Conte’s thistle Sunflower Family (Asteraceae)

Rarity Rank: S2/G2G3

	1	2	3	4	5
State					
Global					
	imperiled		rare		secure

Range: AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC

Recognition:

- A perennial thistle, 0.4 to 1.2 m tall
- Plants often unbranched or sparingly branched, with single, terminal flower heads that are well-exserted above the foliage
- Stem and lower leaf surfaces with cob webby hairs (loosing hairs and becoming glabrate with age)
- Mid-stem leaves to 15 cm long, pinnately lobed; leaves gradually reduced in size up the stem
- Corollas are pinkish-purple with feather-like pappus bristles (modified sepals)



Flowering Time: July to October

Light Requirement: Full sun

Wetland Indicator Status:

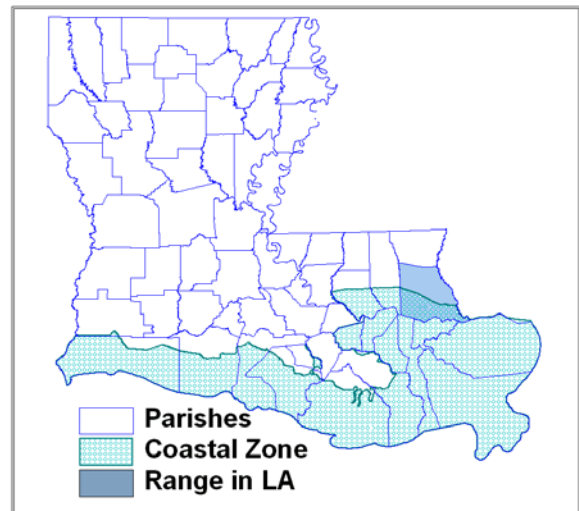
FACW – Usually occurs in wetlands

Habitat:

Longleaf pine flatwoods savannas.

Threats:

- Conversion of habitat to pine plantation (including site prep activities such as bedding and herbicides)
- Fire exclusion or inappropriate fire timing
- Commercial and residential development

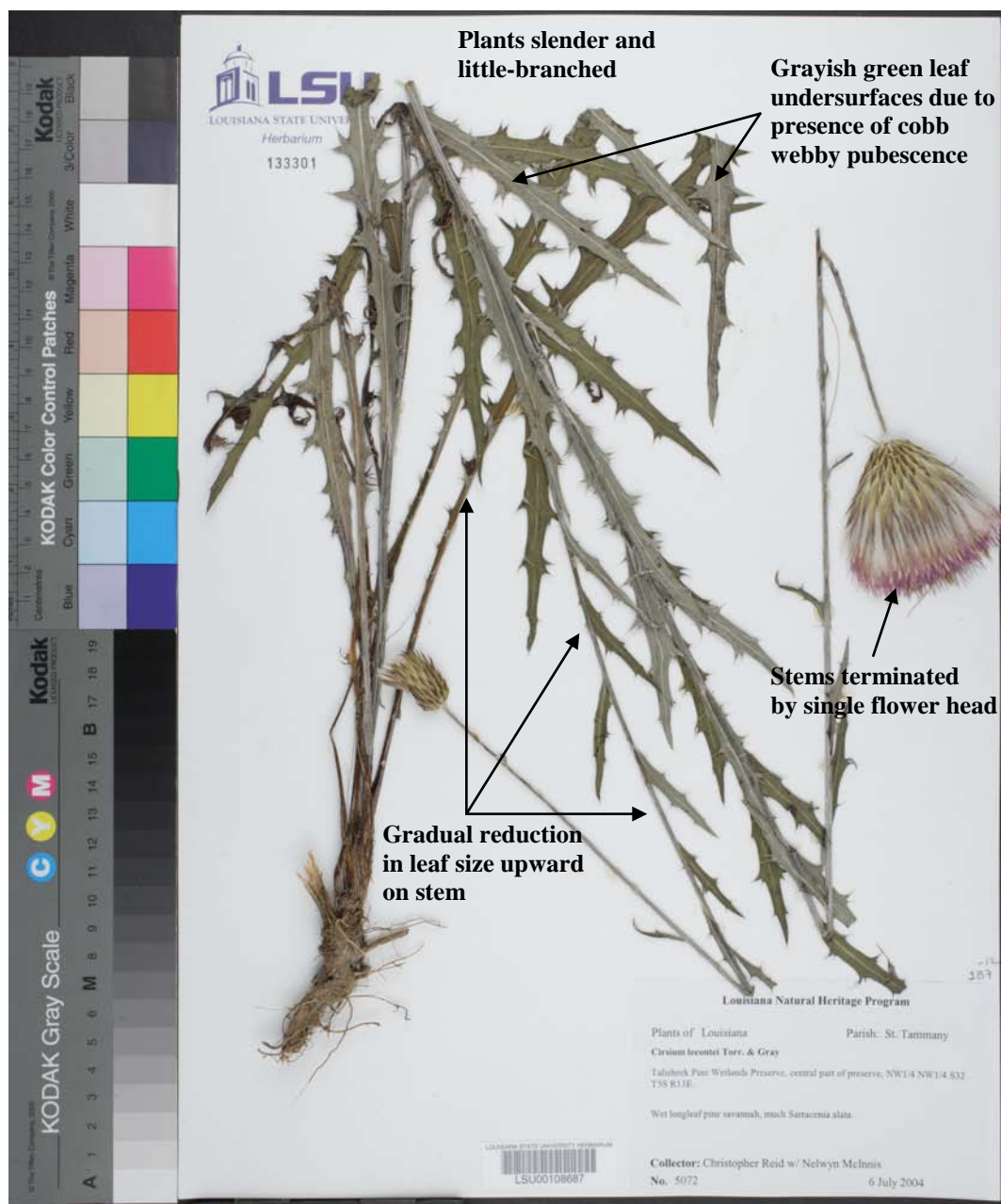


Beneficial Management Practices:

- Prescribed burning, especially during growing season (May to June)
- Thinning of densely-stocked timber (during very dry periods) and maintenance of open stands

LA River Basins: Pearl, Pontchartrain

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Herbarium specimen of *Cirsium lecontei*. Courtesy of LSU Herbarium.

References:

- Gandhi, K. N. and R. D. Thomas. 1989. Asteraceae of Louisiana. Sida, Botanical Miscellany. 4:1-202.
- NatureServe. 2007. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 6.2. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>.
- Nelson, G. 2005. East Gulf Coastal Plain wildflowers. The Globe Pequot Press. Guilford, CT. 263 pp.

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For more information, please visit our Web pages at

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